

The Sore Thumb



Nintendo DS Lite
By: Kaustav Acharya



Title: Madden 2007
Publisher: EA
Review By: Brenden Dankert



With football video games coming out with what seems like every other week, you probably wonder how much better they could be getting. Well, in this case, Madden '07 offers all new features that make you feel as if you, yourself were on the field. You can even create your very own NFL Superstar, and guide him through his career. If you play your cards right, your Superstar could end up in the NFL Hall of Fame.

In my opinion, the best new feature this year are the lead blocking controls. On any running play you can choose to be the Lead Blocker instead of traditionally being able to just carry the ball. This feature gives you the ability to make the perfect block to create a hole for the Tailback to make major yardage.

Another great new feature in this game is the highlight stick. This gives you outstanding control when running the ball. You can leave your opponents in the dust with new jukes, cutbacks, and power moves all at the touch of your left thumb. Master these skills and you most definitely will end up on record as the best ball carrier in the League.

All in all, if you are looking for some good NFL football entertainment, Madden '07 is your answer. This game offers hours upon hours of endless action and entertainment. With all the new features this year,

there is no other football game comparable to this one.

5/5 Thumbs



Nintendo's latest invention in technology, the DS Lite, is an impressive hand held gaming device. With two screens and graphic capabilities surpassing that of the Nintendo 64, it is truly an amazing game system. Two three-inch screens, one of them touch-screen, make up the viewing area of the portable white brick, resembling a miniature version of an old-school SNES.

If you are a multi-player gamer, buy a game that has Nintendo's WIFI connection and you can challenge players all over the globe. No need to worry about monthly service charges, as this feature uses the network Nintendo provides so there are no extra fees. All you need is a wireless router connected to the Internet and you can challenge away!

Final Question: Is it as good as the PSP? I've played both now and I think the Nintendo DS appeals to those that like classic titles like Super Mario Brothers and Tetris. Some might argue that its rival, the Sony PSP has better graphics. This may be justifiably so, but personally, sometimes it's better to simply stick with the classics. I thoroughly enjoyed playing on the DS Lite and feel it's worth buying.

Retails for around \$130.00.

4.5/5 Thumbs



Title: D1 Grand Prix
Publisher: Yuke's Entertainment
Review By: Kaustav Acharya



Long gone are the days of traditional racing. NASCAR is so five minutes ago. In other words, racing is "out". D1 Grand Prix doesn't care if you finish this race in first, third or last place. Fresh out of Japan it seems "drifting" has hit the US market pretty much by surprise. It's stylishly sliding your car around the turns of the track. This new craze of 'motor sport' is now causing all kinds of stir in the local race tracks and raising stock prices of tire companies. Even CNN considers it worthy enough to mention it every once in a while. We figured we would kind of poke our heads in and see what all the fuss was about.

The physics of the game are very realistic. Controlling your car is very difficult to get used to, so my suggestion is that you get a good force-feedback

steering wheel (Logitech's Gran Turismo Wheel is a good one to look into). If you don't have one at your disposal, it may take you a while to familiarize yourself with the controls, but you'll eventually get it. After learning how to "slide", the game does get fun. There is always a different car to compete against, and the same track might throw you some new challenges because the AI of the game does a good job to actually mimic a person driving. It's also fun to just push the car to the edge and see what you can pull off. The occasional flying bumper adds in a bit of humor too, and all summed up, you can kind of ignore the cheesy commentary playing in the background.

So there you have it. Publisher Yuke's first attempt at a racing game turned out somewhat decent. We give this one 4/5 Thumbs



Title: Tetris DS
Publisher: Nintendo
Review By: Kaustav Acharya

Back in the mid-80s, it can be said that a mere few games ruled the arcades. Tetris is no exception, capturing the hearts of those wanting to do more than move a golden sphere around to avoid ghosts. The object of the game was simple: clear as many lines as possible and if you can clear a block of four lines you get a "Tetris".

With several modes of play, Nintendo realized the value in bringing back the classic on the DS-Lite. A new addition in this particular version is the introduction of the "hold box". Simply put, you can hold a particular piece for use at a later time. Single player is just like the original; just keep clearing lines until you can't any more. What's nice is that the musical themes of Super Mario, Zelda, Donkey Kong, and even Excitebike are presented here. It's quite exciting to watch, but honestly, once you get onto level 13 your primary focus should be concentrating on clearing lines.

Online Multiplayer-mode is super, super fun. You compete against other players around the globe (no signup fees or anything) and attempt to best them at the game. It's super fun, super addictive, and really gives your hand-eye coordination a full-scale workout.

So what's to say in conclusion? This game is a great pickup. If you're looking for a game that'll keep you busy in the airports, kill those hours where you just can't do anything else, or just want to relive the classic game, this is it. Thank the makers here for republishing one of the greatest games of all time!

We give it 4.5/5 U's!

